



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Kistler Ranch Training Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	T1S, R13E, Portions of Section 16 MDBM, near Keystone.	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in southwestern Tuolumne County, near Keystone. The project area is approximately 1,000 feet in elevation above sea level. Vegetation consists of annual grasses. The setting is open with rolling hills. The project area is approximately 84 acres in size. The proposed project will consist of a series of small prescribed burns to provide live fire training. The small prescribed burns are also intended to reduce the amount of Medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and shift species composition toward more desirable grasses and herbaceous species. Perimeter fire control lines will consist of existing roads, existing dozer line, and new dozer line. Interior lines will be constructed by hand crews using scraping tools. Live fire training courses are typically conducted in May and June. The late spring is the best time to burn in order to control Medusahead grass.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 15304- Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of burning annual grass, including Medusahead, a noxious weed. A query of the CNDDB did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species within the project area. An occurrence of Red Hills Soap Root in the project area will be avoided. DFW was consulted regarding the project. The project boundaries were designed to avoid a pond and a Class II watercourse. The project area does not contain any known archaeological sites. A burn permit will be obtained from the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District, and all burning shall be conducted in accordance with that permit.

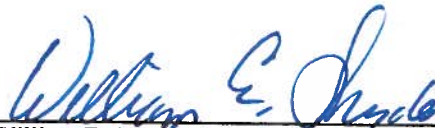
Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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MAY 21 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE


William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 5/20/13
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection